

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer for attaching onto a printed wiring board to which is fixed an electronic component having a component package, on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged, said spacer comprising a single-piece elastic member with no ends thereof,

    said elastic member being detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, and

    said elastic member being attached to and detached from the printed wiring board by exploiting elastic deformation of said elastic member.

2. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 1, wherein said elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and is smaller in length than the outline of the component package, and is thinner than the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer for attaching onto a printed wiring board to which is fixed an electronic component having a component package, on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged, said spacer comprising an elastic member with no ends thereof,

    said elastic member being detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, and

    said elastic member being attached to and detached from the printed wiring board by exploiting elastic deformation of said elastic member,

wherein said elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape and length to an outline of the component package and is thinner than the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, and

wherein the frame-like shape has a pair of hook portions for projecting into the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, the hook portions being provided on the inner outline of the frame-like shape to oppose to each other.

4. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 2,

wherein the frame-like shape has an outer outline greater in length than the outline of the component package, and

wherein the frame-like shape has at least one slit thereon extending from the inner outline toward the outer outline of the frame-like shape.

5. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the frame-like shape has an outer outline greater in length than the outline of the component package, and

wherein the frame-like shape has at least one slit thereon extending from the inner outline toward the outer outline of the frame-like shape.

6. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 4, wherein the frame-like shape has a round hole formed at one end of the slit.

7. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 5, wherein the frame-like shape has a round hole formed at one end of the slit.

8. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 6, wherein the round hole functions as a jig hole for use in removing the spacer from the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

9. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 7, wherein the round hole functions as a jig hole for use in removing the spacer from the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

10. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 1, wherein said elastic member, while in contact with the printed wiring board, is attached around the component package by pressure due to the elastic deformation of said elastic member.

11. (ORIGINAL) A spacer as set forth in claim 10, wherein said elastic member has a cross-sectional shape with a projecting portion thereof, which projects into the gap between the electric component and the printed wiring board when said elastic member is attached to the printed wiring board.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer as set forth in claim 1,  
wherein said elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and said elastic member, while in contact with the printed wiring board, is attached around the component package by pressure due to the elastic deformation of said elastic member, and

wherein the frame-like shape has a catch protrusion on its inner outline, which catch protrusion protrudes into the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printed circuit board, comprising:  
an electronic component having a component package, on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged;  
a printed wiring board to which said electronic component is fixed; and  
a spacer formed as a single-piece elastic member with no ends thereof detachably attached to said printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose said electronic component to seal a gap between said electronic component and said printed wiring board, said elastic member being attached to and detached from said printed wiring board by exploiting elastic

deformation of the elastic member.

14. (ORIGINAL) A printed circuit board as set forth in claim 13, wherein the elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and is smaller in length than the outline of the component package, and is thinner than the gap between the electronic component and said printed wiring board.

15. (ORIGINAL) A printed circuit board as set forth in claim 13, wherein the elastic member, while in contact with said printed wiring board, is attached around the component package by pressure due to the elastic deformation of the elastic member.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printed circuit board, comprising:

an electronic component having a component package, on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged;

a printed wiring board to which said electronic component is fixed; and

a spacer formed as an elastic member with no ends thereof detachably attached to said printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose said electronic component to seal a gap between said electronic component and said printed wiring board, said elastic member being attached to and detached from said printed wiring board by exploiting elastic deformation of the elastic member, wherein the elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and the elastic member, while in contact with said printed wiring board, is attached around the component package by pressure due to the elastic deformation of the elastic member, and

wherein the frame-like shape has a catch protrusion on its inner outline, which catch protrusion protrudes into the gap between the electronic component and said printed wiring board.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Electronic equipment, comprising a printed circuit board which includes: an electronic component having a component package, on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged; a printed wiring board to which the electronic component is fixed; and a spacer formed as a single-piece elastic member with no ends thereof

detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, the elastic member being attached to and detached from the printed wiring board by exploiting elastic deformation of the elastic member.

18. (ORIGINAL) Electronic equipment as set forth in claim 17, wherein the elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and is smaller in length than the outline of the component package, and is thinner than the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

19. (ORIGINAL) Electronic equipment as set forth in claim 17, wherein the elastic member, while in contact with the printed wiring board, is attached around the component package by pressure due to the elastic deformation of said elastic member.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Electronic equipment, comprising a printed circuit board which includes: an electronic component having a component package, on one of whose surfaces a connection terminal is arranged; a printed wiring board to which the electronic component is fixed; and a spacer formed as an elastic member with no ends thereof detachably attached to the printed wiring board in such a way as to enclose the electronic component to seal a gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board, the elastic member being attached to and detached from the printed wiring board by exploiting elastic deformation of the elastic member, wherein the elastic member has a frame-like shape with an inner outline which is similar in shape to an outline of the component package, and the elastic member, while in contact with the printed wiring board, is attached around the component package by pressure due to the elastic deformation of the elastic member, and

wherein the frame-like shape has a catch protrusion on its inner outline, which catch protrusion protrudes into the gap between the electronic component and the printed wiring board.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:  
an electronic component;

a printed wiring board spaced from the electronic component to form a gap therebetween; and

a spacer selectively attached to the printed wiring board by an elastic deformation thereof to seal the gap,

the spacer comprising a single-piece elastic member formed of an endless loop.